

Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

Yersinia pestis (Version 1)

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Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**
Pure culture/ Isolated colony	NA	NA	Place on nutrient agar plate or slant.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport device: Nutrient agar plate or slant.• Transport: Ship at room temperature.• Storage: Room temperature.
Bronchial wash, tracheal aspirate, sputum	At illness. For optimal isolation, collect within 72 hours of symptom onset.		Collect expectorated specimen into a sterile container.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport device: Sterile leak-proof container.• Transport: Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs.• Storage: Refrigerate at 2-8°C.
Tissues (spleen, liver, lymph nodes, bone marrow, lung)	NA		Collect 2g (or 0.5-1 cm ³) of material into a sterile container, and add 1-2 drops of normal saline to keep the tissue moist.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport device: Sterile leak-proof container.• Transport: Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. If previously frozen, ship on dry ice.• Storage: Refrigerate at 2-8°C. If arriving at WAPHL ≥ 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C.
Nasopharyngeal swabs			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect only using synthetic tip swabs (ex. Dacron, Nylon, Polyester) with non-wooden shaft.• Keep 1 Dacron swab dry (do not add transport medium).• Keep 1 Dacron swab in transport medium.	Keep dry <u>or</u> in transport medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport device: Sterile leak-proof container.• Transport: Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. Shipping at room temperature is acceptable. If previously refrigerated, ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs.• Storage: Refrigerate at 2-8 °C.
Postmortem Tissue			Collect tissue into a sterile container, and add 1-2 drops of normal saline to keep the tissue moist.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport device: Sterile leak-proof container.• Transport: Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. If previously frozen, ship on dry ice.• Storage: Refrigerate at 2-8°C. If arriving at WAPHL ≥ 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C.

General Rejection Criteria (for additional details, see S&H)

- Unaccepted specimen type.
- Not refrigerated or frozen properly.
- Insufficient specimen volume.
- Leaky specimen.
- Did not obtain LHJ or DOH CDE approval.
- Failure to follow specific S&H requirements.

NOTE:

Specimens will not be processed until ALL of the following information are provided on requisition form:

- Patient name, patient's county of residence, and second identifier.
- Two matching identifiers on both the tube and the laboratory requisition form.
- Specimen type, date of collection, and test requested.
- Submitter name, address, and telephone/FAX numbers.

Collection kit availability

Not available.

Comments